

FREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 141

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5
 2, 5, 20, 22, 24

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 1, 5

Evening picks: 6, 5, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race time: 1:48.38


**NEWS OF
THE WEIRD**
 by Chuck Shepard

Michael J. Corbett and his wife, Sharon, were arrested in Beckley, W.Va., in March and charged with peddling copies of 53 different obscene videos on the Internet. The Corbetts' specialty: nude women answering nature's call. According to Justice Department and Postal Service investigators, customers bought 100 or more tapes a week (such as "Outdoor Pooping Paradise" or tapes using the Corbetts' inventive "bowl cam") at around \$50 each.

**QUOTE OF
THE DAY**

"My brain is my second favorite organ."

— Woody Allen

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Pavilions to stand trial for overcharging

'Club' members were cheated, city says in lawsuit
BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

After months of judicial back-and-forth, Santa Monica's case against Pavilions on Montana Avenue is going to trial.

The city is suing the Santa Monica grocery store for allegedly charging customers more at checkout than the prices advertised on aisle-way tags, according to court documents.

Lawyers for Pavilions, which is owned by the Vons Company, argued for a dismissal of the lawsuit Friday, pointing to a handful of similar cases statewide that have been found in the company's favor.

But Superior Court Judge Lawrence J. Mira

"When you go to the grocery store, you assume you'll be charged for what (the price tags show)."

- EDA SUH

Deputy District Attorney

denied the request. He said the facts in the current case are different and scheduled the suit for a Malibu jury trial beginning Monday.

Charges were filed against Pavilions following an October 2001 inspection by the L.A. County Department of Weights and Measures.

The undercover investigation showed that

the store charged full price for items that advertised discounts for "club card" carriers.

Customers buying Hungry Jack Waffles, Taglio Primo Brie cheese and four other items were overcharged by as much as \$2.90, inspectors said.

Lawyers for the grocery store admit that discount tags are sometimes left up after offers expire, but said the price tags have dates clearly printed on them.

More than 10,000 special offers are made at Pavilions each week, lawyers said.

"We have human beings doing these," said attorney Fred Dibbernardo, adding that expired tags are usually pulled down immediately but sometimes stay up for as long as three days.

The Vons Company recently won a jury trial in Ventura concerning similar charges. And in

See TRIAL, page 5

Sales tax revenue down but news not all bad

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Overall, 2002 sales tax revenue for Santa Monica was less than the year before, though it's not as bad as it sounds.

Consumers in Santa Monica spent more than \$2.2 billion last year. That translates to \$22 million — or one percent of total sales — in sales tax revenue for the cash-strapped city, said Mark Richter,

head of the city's department of resource management.

While sales tax revenue in the city as a whole dropped 2 percent compared with 2001, bright spots did emerge.

Sales tax revenue from stores on the Third Street Promenade jumped 2.3 percent — and a whopping 17.5 percent in the fourth quarter alone.

The jump clearly indicated a

bounce back in retail sales and tourism, Richter said.

The figures showed that Santa Monica is doing slightly better than L.A. County at large, which was down about 3 percent overall, Richter said.

Some other areas of the city also fought through the recession to post sales tax gains in 2002.

Merchants along Lincoln Boulevard posted 4.3 percent

more sales tax revenue for the year and 7.8 percent more in the fourth quarter. The abundance of gas stations on the street and the rising cost of gas and may have affected those numbers, Richter said.

Shops along Montana Avenue, where Richter said there are virtually no vacancies, reported a 3.6 percent gain in sales tax revenue on the year and a 6.2 percent jump

See SALES, page 5

Divorce-by-mail is quick, easy and cheap

BY JOHN K. WILEY

Associated Press Writer

DAVENPORT, Wash. — Monday is Divorce Day in the Lincoln County Courthouse.

In the morning, Assistant County Clerk Mary Gamble brings bins and mailbags from the Post Office full of new filings for dissolution of marriage.

In his office one floor up, Superior Court Judge Philip Borst gets writer's cramp signing final decrees in marathons that can last six hours or more.

Welcome to the divorce capital of Washington, the only county in the state where marriages can be dissolved by mail without a court appearance.

Paralegals and attorneys from

across the state swamp County Clerk Peggy Semprimoznik's office each week with filings for clients anxious to be shed of spouses more quickly and inexpensively than in the counties where they live.

This wheat farming county of just over 10,000 residents last year handled 4,035 domestic filings, most of them divorces.

That's more than any other county except King, home to more than 1.75 million residents in and around Seattle, which had 5,487 filings, according to state Department of Health statistics.

By contrast, Skamania County in southwestern Washington state — with about as many residents

See DIVORCE, page 7

Green thumb



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Mary Jane Shippen spent Friday afternoon tending her plot of 10 years at the City of Santa Monica's Main St. Community Gardens on Main Street. She said she waited 4 years before she was able to have of her own space.

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HOROSCOPE

Say 'yes' to an invitation, Leo



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, April 26, 2003

Think "options" when dealing with children, loved ones and finances. How you view someone could change considerably this year. You discover that someone you have considered to be stable could become downright flaky. Relax with others; remain confident that you can and will have what you want. Networking, friends and groups favor you. Use your assets well. Romance will knock on the door of those who are single in 2003. If you are attached, you might feel like newlyweds this fall. Make the most of the moment. PISCES helps you get what you want.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Hold on tight. Just when you thought everything was as you like it, you find out otherwise. Keep your own counsel and keep on observing. Schedule a checkup with the doc or dentist. Don't put this off right now. You'll be a lot happier as a result. Tonight: Keep it low-key.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might know what you want and assume the same about someone else. The surprise lies in the fact that a situation could be radically different for a child or new friend. Do whatever you need to do to check out a problem. Think rather than react. Tonight: Where the action is.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Hold on tight. You could easily get off track with your ruler going retrograde. Still, make an effort to touch base with an authority figure or someone you care about. You also might need to put in extra hours at work. Make this OK, not getting too uptight. Tonight: A must appearance.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Ignore (if you can) what is going on around you. Take off for a day trip or even for the weekend. In a different space, you might see recent events in a new light. Open up to conversations with people you might not know. Tonight: Try something experimental.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Deal with others. Discussions involve finances and long-term desires. Know when you have gone too far. Know when you need to allow others to pull back. One-on-one relating will help you get to the bottom of problems in the next few weeks. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Understand what might be happening with a loved one or friend rather than taking his or her actions personally. You might not be comfortable with what is occurring with a parent or boss, but there is little you can do to change this. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Build on present knowledge right now. See what might be happening within your circle of friends. You might be disheartened by what you hear, but keep on plugging away. You'll come up with strong answers if you give yourself time. Relax through a hobby. Tonight: Just don't push.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A friend could disappoint you. It might take a lot to work through this problem. Listen to what someone shares and try not take it personally. You'll head in a new direction if you allow yourself to detach and brainstorm. Use that innate Scorpio charm. Tonight: What a romp!

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A partner could be more contrary than you think. In the next few weeks, you will have an opportunity to rethink a work-related matter, as well as a partnership issue. Something that should have been done in the past needs to be done in the near future. Tonight: Order in.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Make calls and reach out for others. You might be surprised by someone's mood. Speak your mind and get past an immediate problem. You might find that those around you have a more difficult time figuring out what to do. Tonight: Find your pals.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might find others slightly out of sorts, especially within a relationship with a loved one or child. Don't be surprised if you get a blast from your past in the next few weeks. Be careful with new relationships during this same period. Tonight: Pick up the tab.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You mean well, but communicating it to a friend or loved one takes talent in the next few weeks. You might want to distance yourself from a family member or roommate. Take your time with a personal matter; you need to do more evaluating and thinking. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

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LOCAL



Councilman fails to bring back controversial henna

By Daily Press staff

The city will remain free from henna, despite a request from a city councilman last week asking that the art form be brought back.

A request by Councilman Mike Feinstein on Tuesday to reclassify henna artists as street performers failed to garner the support of the rest of the Council.

Feinstein dropped his motion when it became it apparent he didn't have the votes to push his recommendation through.

The Santa Monica City Council voted 4-3 in October 2001 to ban henna artists from the Third Street Promenade and the pier, saying that some of artists posed a public safety risk. The ban took effect in 2002.

Henna art, which is a non-permanent tattoo, is not considered a performance by the City of Santa Monica.

Some council members think tattooing is a form of cosmetology, and if henna is on the mall, hair braiding could be next.

Some artists use dangerous toxic chemicals that have given the 5,000-year-old art form a bad rap in Santa Monica.

Skin rashes and other complications are caused by "black henna," or phenylenediamine, a hair dye. The black henna is cheaper than traditional Henna dye, which is red and is used for skin decorations and body art.

The three councilmen that voted to keep henna in the city agree that it's an art form and should be included under the city's street performer ordinance — just like a clown who does face painting. Councilmen Kevin McKeown, Richard Bloom and Feinstein lost that vote.

However, Bloom and McKeown didn't support Feinstein's motion on Tuesday because the vote would have had the same result as before because no one has changed their position.

Supporters of henna point to a series of changes in their favor since last year's decision.

The Arts Commission has ruled henna is an art form, the Bayside Corp., which manages downtown, voted to support henna if some health concerns are met, and henna artists have agreed not to use the dangerous "black henna" ink.



Saturday, northwest increases to shoulder-to-head-height at the best spots. The southwest backs down further to waist-high proportions.

Sunday, the northwest should back down, with size dropping to chest and occasionally shoulder-height. South is looking weaker again Sunday, probably at the knee to waist range.

Today's Tides:

Low- 12:44 a.m. 2.09'

High- 6:09 a.m. 4.27'

Low- 1:08 p.m. -0.17'

High- 7:43 p.m. 4.30'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	3-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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COMMUNITY BOARD

Spirit Awards presented by Red Cross

By Daily Press staff

Three Santa Monicans — a local firefighter, a founder of a local school and a member of Santa Monica's oldest family — were honored by the American Red Cross on Thursday for their contributions to the city.

The Red Cross of Santa Monica hosted the 9th Annual Spirit Awards at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, where longtime local Ysidro Reyes was given the 2003 Lifetime Humanitarian award.

Crossroads and New Roads Schools founder Paul Cummins and Sarah Billman, the 2003 Santa Monica Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year, were honored with the Red Cross' Spirit Award.

"We are so proud to honor these deserving people with a Spirit Award," said Tom Miskimen, executive director of the Red Cross of Santa Monica. "We are also delighted this event will help raise much needed funds to provide emergency aid, health and safety education both in our community and beyond."

Reyes' family was the first to settle in Santa Monica and when he was born, Santa Monica was only 38 years old. Reyes founded the California Ambulance Service and also introduced the first air ambulance service in the country. Reyes operated the Wilshire Funeral Home.

In 1936, Virgil Kingsley joined the firm then known as Gates, Mendenhall and Gates. Eventually the giant conglomerate, Service Corporation International, acquired the Wilshire Funeral Home. SCI is the parent company of Gates, Kingsley and Gates, along with many other mortuaries. Reyes is now a director at Gates, Kingsley, Gates, Moeller & Murphy.

See RED CROSS, page 5

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OPINION

LETTERS

Tittinger's tale touches friend

Editor:

It was with great dismay that I recently read about the plight of my best friend, Michael Tittinger. Why someone such as himself would have problems finding work writing for a lowly sitcom is beyond my ability to comprehend.

Here's a person who worked on a National Geographic documentary on James Vicary and the use of subliminal suggestion. He also worked on another project for them on Rasputin and his links to the Khlyst religious sect. He once started to write a novel with a novel twist on Hitler. The story would be about Von Kahr, except in his novel, Von would be a leader and his henchman would be called the cars.

He did stay true to the nihilistic behaviors of those persons. His expose on the Sophists is one for the ages. He wrote at length on Gorgias and his influence over the Sophists. Surely a piece all of us have read. Another one of his works was a children's tale — the tale of Johnny Applesseed. Johnny went wandering about the country, planting seed everywhere he went. The more seed he planted the more apple trees grew.

If he's not able to incorporate these into a sitcom, maybe he could write them into his weekly articles here in the Santa Monica Daily Press. It's good to see his uncreative writing classes haven't gone to waste. Metaphorically speaking, trying to block the sun of man has always been his goal.

Vernon Horst
Santa Monica

More progressive representation needed

Editor:

After reading last week's letter to the editor regarding the effect of fluoride on the thyroid, I did some Internet research:

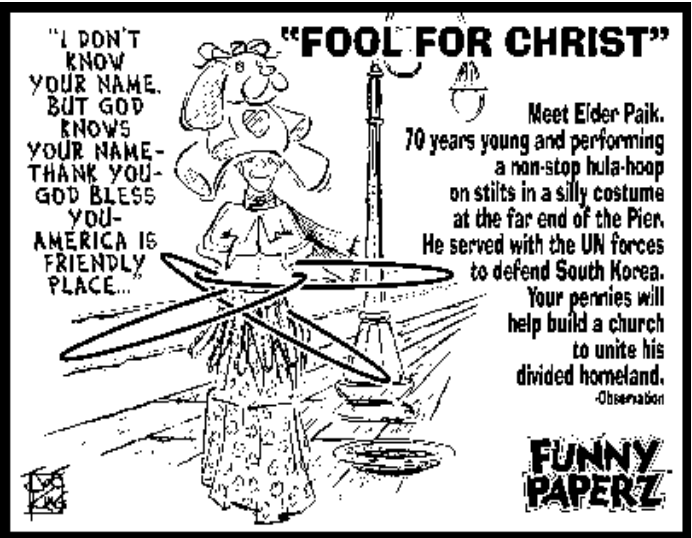
Sites for "fluoride - thyroid" = 8,477;
Sites for "fluoride - toxic" = 28,857;
Sites for "fluoride - lead" = 50,537;
Sites for "fluoride - poisoning" = 9,805;
Sites for "fluoride - accidents" = 5,205.

Apparently fluoridation affects more than just the thyroid. How many people will be adversely affected by this substance?

It is a rather strange inconsistency that a City Council, known for its compassionate consideration of its homeless population should have such a cavalier attitude concerning the safety of the water supply for its tax-paying residents.

Perhaps a City Council with only seven members cannot adequately represent the legitimate health concerns of Santa Monica's approximately 90,000 residents and that additional and more progressive representation is needed to better reflect the legitimate health concerns of its citizens.

Z. Grund
Santa Monica



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Humor lasts longer than flat abs but it's not sexy



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

According to a recent poll in Esquire magazine, the quality in a man that more women find sexier than any other is a sense of humor.

I assume that if they had surveyed men regarding women, they would have gotten a similar answer. People are always saying how important a sense of humor is in the opposite sex. They're always saying this, but do they really mean it?

When a fat, balding man walks into a bar, do women's heads turn as they gasp, "I wouldn't mind spending some time with that sense of humor?"

Do men elbow each other when a plain-looking woman comes in and say, "Get a load of the sense of humor on her?"

I understand that relationships aren't based on superficialities. I know it's more fun to be with someone who has a good sense of humor. But is it really sexy?

Someone who can laugh and make you laugh may be a good person to spend your life with. But does that make it sexy? A sense of humor lasts a lot longer than a pretty face or flat abs. But, sexy? That's what these women said.

In the Esquire poll, when responding to the question, "Which quality in a man most turns you on?" 47 percent said sense of humor, 28 percent said confidence, 20 percent said physical attractiveness, 4 percent said power and only 2 percent said wealth.

So they weren't saying that a sense of humor in a guy is fun, lovable, or enduring. They were saying that it turned them on!

Maybe I'm a little naive, but I've never heard the advice, "Forget the diamonds, don't worry about your appearance, don't bother being loyal or sensitive. If you want her to fall for you, just tell her the one about the rabbi, the priest and the minister in the canoe."

As someone who has spent most of his life surrounded by professional funny people, I'm doubting the data. Comedy writers and comedians are not generally known for having to fight off people of the opposite sex.

Years ago, before Woody Allen was

weird and was just funny, he was in a restaurant when the waitress asked him, "Are you Woody Allen?" Being shy and not wanting to deal with autographs, Woody said, "No, I'm not."

"Sorry," the waitress said. "Didn't mean to insult you."

Apocryphal or not, that's how funny people view themselves — not as the people most likely to turn on 46 percent of the population. When someone laughs at you in bed, it's rarely a good thing.

And when was the last time you heard about a woman leaving her handsome, good-hearted, construction-working, motorcycle-driving husband for a short, skinny shoe salesman with a great sense of humor? Have you ever heard about a man who walked out on his young, rich, voluptuous wife for an unemployed older woman who was great at telling jokes?

Who's sexier, Brad Pitt or Jim Carrey? Catherine Zeta Jones or Lily Tomlin? And if you go back in time a little, ask yourself about Marilyn Monroe versus Martha Raye or Paul Newman versus Buddy Hackett.

So, what should we make of this — that people lie about how important a sense of humor is so they won't appear

shallow? Probably.

But more importantly, it's really a silly and unfair question to ask what the one sexiest characteristic is. Attraction is not an exact science and sexiness is a composite of many traits. Sensitivity, intelligence, looks, moral strength and many other things can contribute to sexiness. Humor is just one component of a sexy, romantic being and none of them should be ignored.

So, the next time I really want romance, I'll take my wife out to dinner to a beautiful place with great food that's quiet so I can truly listen to her every word. I'll compliment her, and I'll mean it and she'll know there's no one in the world I'd rather be with.

And just to make sure it's a perfect night, I'll wear a Groucho mask.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



Pavilions jury trial to begin Monday in Malibu

TRIAL, from page 1

1998, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Julius Title ruled against the city on a different lawsuit against Pavilions that alleged the same infractions.

Both a Whittier judge and an L.A. County administrative judge have thrown out similar cases on the grounds that the issues have been tried in Vons' favor in the past.

Dibernardo said he hoped Mira would do the same.

"It's the identical case," he said. "They're taking another bite at the apple, I guess."

But Mira decided to hear the case, saying the transactions at issue should stand on their own.

"We're dealing with totally different

factual circumstances," Mira said.

Deputy District Attorney Eda Suh, who works with the city's consumer protection unit, agreed.

"When you go to the grocery store, you assume you'll be charged for what (the price tags show)," she said, adding that Pavilions should be held responsible for the lapse whether it was intentional or mechanical.

Pavilions faces six counts of scanner violations and one count of false advertising. The first charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine, while the second carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

With the penalty assessment fee, which is tacked on to all criminal penalties, city officials said Pavilions faces more than \$20,000 in possible fines.

Good sales tax news won't change city's budget deficit

SALES, from page 1

in the fourth quarter.

In general, Richter said restaurants and service stations produced more in sales tax in 2002 than in 2001, while department store and auto sales were down.

Richter said areas of town that target affluent customers seemed to have improved despite the recession.

"It's an upscale clientele and that's what sells," he said. "That end of the market is virtually recession-proof."

City officials said the good sales tax news won't change the status of this year's \$12 million budget deficit. Budget decisions will still be approached conservatively, they said.

"It's too early to celebrate," said City Manager Susan McCarthy. "A fortuitous uptick in Promenade sales during the holiday season does not mean that everything is rosy on the sales tax front."

Robert York, a consultant for the Bayside Corporation, which manages downtown with the city, said to expect a great deal of turnover in downtown mer-

chants during the next few months.

While some are leaving, York said other businesses are interested in vacant spots. Overall, occupancy rates should remain steady.

"We're holding our own," he said, adding that it will be several months before any major gains are made.

The demise of dot-coms at the east end of Colorado Avenue contributed to a 14 percent drop in 2002 sales tax from that area. Santa Monica Place mall posted an 11 percent drop in sales tax revenue.

Auto sales along Santa Monica Boulevard also fell in 2002, dropping 1.3 percent.

While revenue from Ocean Avenue, the Santa Monica Pier and hotels downtown dropped slightly from 2001, fourth-quarter revenues were up 16.1 percent.

Los Angeles County, which receives sales tax from the unincorporated areas of the county, expects to post a 3.8 percent gain from the 2001-2002 fiscal year to 2002-2003, said John Redmond, principal analyst for the county's chief administrative office.

COMMUNITY BOARD

RED CROSS, from page 3

Reyes is a past board member of the American Red Cross of Santa Monica and dozens of other organizations throughout the city.

Cummins in 1970 became the headmaster of St. Augustine's Elementary School in Santa Monica and a founder and headmaster of Crossroads school. He is currently the executive director of the New Visions Foundation. He has written several articles on education and numerous poems which have appeared in anthologies and in journals.

Cummins serves on the board of trustees of the Sam Frances Foundation, American Poetry Review, ExEd, the Camino Nuevo Charter Academy and New Roads School. He and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Santa Monica with their four daughters.

Billman, who has worked for the Santa Monica Fire Department for six years,

started her career on the ladder truck and then transferred to an engine company. She obtained her paramedic license two years ago and is currently assigned to engine company #1. Her passions in life include spending time with family and friends, coming to work and riding her bike. She has two sisters, two brothers and 11 adopted brothers and sisters.

The Spirit Awards event is the most significant annual fundraiser of the Santa Monica Red Cross.

The evening's honorary committee is Brian Dennehy, Rachel Griffiths, Hugh Jackman, Al Jarreau, Nicole Kidman, Olivia Newton John and Jane Seymour.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica, established in 1917, provides health and safety education, youth services, first aid and CPR training. Thursday's event will fund all the local programs, as well as local disaster relief services that aid victims of wildfires, earthquakes and floods with essential humanitarian relief such as food, shelter, blankets, first aid kits, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting and other services.



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Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE

Regal treatment of CEOs continued during 2002

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The fallout from a dreary economy, corporate scandals and three straight years of stock market losses hasn't put much of a dent in executive paychecks.

Most of the nation's top executives continued to collect lucrative compensation packages during 2002, angering critics who believe the rewards reflect an insensitivity to the financial duress facing much of the country.

"Times are tough, but executives are still living like we're in the Roaring '20s. It's mind boggling," said Brandon Rees, research analyst for the AFL-CIO, which is lobbying for compensation reform.

By some estimates, investors have lost \$7 trillion on paper since the stock market peaked in March 2000. Meanwhile, the nation's unemployment rate rose from 4.7 percent in 2001 to 5.8 percent in 2002, swelling the jobless ranks by another 1.6 million people.

The setbacks haven't significantly changed the overall pay of chief executive officers, although corporate boards have said they want compensation packages to parallel the ups and downs of the stock market.

The mid-range CEO salary and bonus rose to \$1.8 million in 2002, a 10 percent improvement from 2001, according to a survey of executive compensation at 350 large publicly held companies conducted by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

"The goose that has been laying all those golden eggs still hasn't been butchered," said Bruce Ellig, author of "The Complete Guide to Executive Compensation."

News about big paychecks has come out over the past month as publicly held companies submitted annually required reports on executive compensation.

Some signs of restraint emerged among a few companies that refused to pay executives bonuses amid the economic misery. Some executives also declined to take bonuses.

But with most executives still able to command premium prices, corporate boards find it difficult to reduce the pay packages because they want to remain competitive, said Robin Ferracone, a partner at Mercer Human Resource Consulting. "Everybody wants to be above the 50th percentile," she said.

Salaries and bonuses represent just a small part of the generous compensation packages for top executives at many of the nation's largest companies. Stock options, restricted stock awards, enhanced pensions and long-term incentive plans also elevated executive pay.

For example, at defense contractor Honeywell International, recently hired CEO David Cote's 2002 compensation package included \$3.56 million in "other annual compensation" on top of his salary and bonus of \$3.17 million.

The peripherals included: \$118,667 to pay Cote's legal bills, \$61,475 for his personal use of corporate aircraft, \$60,300 for temporary housing, \$28,944 for personal use of a company car and a \$2.7 million "make-whole" payment to cover a bonus Cote would have received had he not resigned from TRW Inc. to take the Honeywell job. Honeywell also reimbursed him \$394,903 for some of the taxes he incurred from all the extra income.

Cote is scheduled to receive another \$2.3 million "make-whole" payment this year.

Meanwhile, Honeywell's stock dropped 29 percent between Cote's February 2002 hiring and the end of the year, wiping out \$7.7 billion in shareholder wealth.

In its annual report to shareholders, Honeywell's compensation committee said it negotiated Cote's contract after it "considered competitive market data ... at large industrial companies."

Cote's extra pay helped boost his total 2002 pay to \$31.9 million, ranking him among the 10 highest paid executives nationwide last year. He also received 755,863 shares of Honeywell stock, valued at \$25.1 million, that began to vest in November. Cote must remain with Honeywell until July 2012 to get all the shares.

Cote was one of the nation's top paid executives identified through Aon Consulting's eComp database, covering executive compensation disclosures that had been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission through April 18.

The two highest paid executives on list — Tyco International's Mark Swartz and L. Dennis Kozlowski — have been vilified as symbols of corporate excess for the money they carted away from the scandal-ridden conglomerate. Both men, who resigned from Tyco last year, face criminal charges of fraud, allegations that they deny.

Swartz, Tyco's former chief financial officer, received compensation valued at \$78 million last year while Kozlowski collected \$76.6 million, according to Aon's analysis.

Tyco is suing both men to force them to return much of the money.

Recent corporate scandals have prodded many corporate boards to take a harder look at executive pay. "There has been a real wake-up call for boards to see what has been going on underneath their noses all these years," Ferracone said.

More shareholders are pressuring for change, too. Through mid-April, 316 shareholder resolutions focused on executive pay had been filed at U.S. companies, up from 106 last year, according to the Investor Responsibility Research Center.

The heightened awareness and public attention will eventually drag down executive paychecks, predicted Pearl Meyer, chairman of Pearl Meyer & Partners, an executive compensation consulting firm. "The golden era of executive compensation is gone," she said.

Some companies became more frugal last year.

Georgia Pacific Corp., for instance, decided not to pay its CEO, Alston "Pete" Correll, a \$2 million bonus he had earned under an incentive plan because of stock market losses its shareholders suffered. Georgia Pacific's stock plunged by 68 percent between the end of 1999 and the end of 2002, shaving \$8.8 billion.

American Electric Power Co. Inc., which runs utilities in 11 states, made a similar move, withholding the 2002 bonus earned by CEO E. Linn Draper Jr. "due to the company's overall financial performance." The Columbus, Ohio-based company lost \$519 million last year and its stock plunged 37 percent.

See EXECS, page 7

STATE □ NATIONAL

Mail divorce is cheaper and eases family strain

DIVORCE, from page 1

as Lincoln County — had 83 domestic filings in 2002.

"Realistically, there's a lot of reasons for people getting divorced," Borst said. "If I had my rather, I'd rather people stayed married and had a happy marriage."

But the judge said he's not saddened by the volume of marriages that are ended with a stroke of his pen because many of those seeking divorces in his court have tried marriage counseling, without success.

The ease with which a couple can legally separate or divorce here does upset a Washington-based family group and some church pastors in this county seat about 35 miles west of Spokane.

Typically, Borst's signature makes a Lincoln County divorce final in a little more than the 90-day waiting period mandated by the state. In some of the state's larger counties, where court appearances are required, court dockets are crowded with other matters and divorces can take a year or longer.

The Rev. John Hammond of the Harvest Celebration Church, an Assembly of God congregation about a block away from the sandstone courthouse, is among those who don't welcome the county's status as a divorce haven.

On its Web page, Families Northwest, a pro-marriage organization in Bellevue, calls the Lincoln County system "a travesty."

Semprimoznik estimates her office has handled more than 40,000 divorce filings in the 13 years she has worked there. She says she has little contact with the couples calling it quits, but thinks the county's quickie divorces are appreciated.

"They're going to get divorced, anyway," she said. "If they don't have to take time off from work, it saves money they

"Realistically, there's a lot of reasons for people getting divorced. If I had my rather, I'd rather people stayed married and had a happy marriage."

— PHILIP BORST
Superior Court Judge

usually don't have."

For his part, Borst has heard complaints from others — but never from the couples involved.

Borst said many who file through his court can't afford an expensive divorce, and shortening the time it takes eases the strain on them and the children.

"From practical experience, once they get to court and fight, they can't agree and kids suffer and they suffer," Borst said.

When both parties agree to split their assets and on childcare responsibilities, an attorney isn't necessary, the judge said.

Lincoln County also makes money on the arrangement, from the \$120 filing fee and the \$20 charge when the dissolution becomes final. The county last year earned \$489,000 from domestic filings, such as divorces and annulments, Semprimoznik said. Of that, the county netted about \$283,000, and the state took \$206,000.

Some executives denied themselves bonuses in 2002

EXECS, from page 6

Other executives voluntarily relinquished bonuses. James Sinegal, the CEO of discount merchant Costco Wholesale, refused to take a bonus for the second consecutive year, making do with total compensation of just under \$374,000.

Other top executives who denied themselves bonuses in 2002 included Citigroup Inc.'s Sanford Weill, FleetBoston Financial Corp.'s Charles Gifford and Charles Schwab Corp.'s co-CEOs, David Pottruck and Charles Schwab. Pottruck and Schwab also surrendered 5.4 million stock options — many of them currently worthless.

But PG&E Corp., which owns a Northern California utility that has been in bankruptcy for two years, gave CEO Robert Glynn Jr. a bonus of \$787,500 despite losing \$874 million in 2002 and seeing its stock shed 28 percent of its value.

For many executives, stock options

distributed in previous years remained valuable, despite the market's downfall.

Alfred Lerner, who was CEO of credit card giant MBNA Corp., realized a \$168.9 million gain on stock options before he died in October, representing the biggest windfall in Aon Consulting's survey. MBNA also paid a posthumous bonus of \$6 million to Lerner's estate.

Executives continued to collect "golden parachutes" when they left jobs, as well as lucrative "golden hellos" when they accepted new assignments.

Michael Capellas, who is trying to resurrect bankrupt WorldCom, capitalized on both trends last year. He got a \$23 million severance package after resigning as Hewlett Packard's president in November, then joined WorldCom in a deal expected to pay him at least \$20 million in three years.

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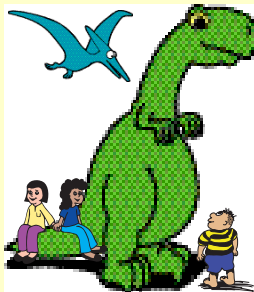
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- 1 Rascal
 - 6 Word processor command
 - 11 Murphy of film
 - 12 Pay tribute to
 - 13 Like taking candy — baby
 - 14 Huntress of myth
 - 15 Mien
 - 17 Rage
 - 18 Nonsense
 - 19 "Why?"
 - 22 Busy org. in April
 - 23 Icebox, updated
 - 24 Ashtray fill
 - 25 Brazilian river
 - 27 Sch. score
 - 30 Light rain
 - 31 Crew need
 - 32 Play division
 - 33 Lend a hand
 - 35 Run-down
 - 38 Feel
 - 39 Tire feature
 - 40 Computer key
 - 41 Ditties
 - 42 Yarn
- DOWN**
- 2 Screen sight
 - 3 Makes one's own
 - 4 Silent performer
 - 5 First beard
 - 6 Advanced degree
 - 7 King of France
 - 8 Dazed
 - 9 Generic
 - 10 Barler
 - 16 One of the British
 - 20 Sees Islands
 - 21 Music buys
 - 24 Quarter-back, at times
 - 25 Director
 - 26 Hand warmer
 - 27 Discuss
 - 28 Quarter-back, at times
 - 29 Blood line
 - 30 Pub activity
 - 34 Broadcast
 - 36 Play-ground game
 - 37 Fabric units (Abbr.)

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4-26

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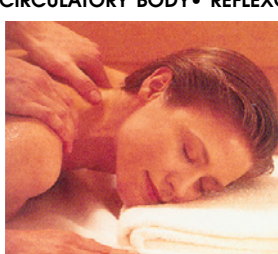
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2308 32nd St. \$1500

Upper 2 bed, 2 bath, new carpet & linoleum, laundry room

933 3rd St. \$1650

Rear upper 2 bed, 1.5 baths hardwood floors, 1 garage space

1229 Princeton \$1895

Lower 3 bed, 2 bath, hardwood floors, dishwasher, fireplace

WLA/BRENTWOOD

1311 Federal, WLA, \$700

Lower bachelor, utilities paid, near Wilshire, laundry room

10908 S.M. Blvd., WLA \$800

Upper & Lower singles available, large closets, near UCLA

11615 Darlington

Brentwood \$1450/\$1550

2 units avail, both 2 bedroom & 1.5 bath, laundry room, walk to San Vicente

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SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 2+1, near SMC and farmer's market. Balcony, carport parking.

(310)395-7368
 Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 2BDRM/1BA Upper, sunny, balcony, parking, near SMC 2530 Kansas Ave. #C (310)450-3314



CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1395/mo. 2bdrm/1ba. Near water garden. Contact Cy: (310)302-1961

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire. Contemporary, spacious, 2bdrm/2ba, stove, dishwasher, parking, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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SANTA MONICA \$2150 3bdrm/2ba. Apt. parking, laundry. Floor. Close to SMC, Euclid, N. of Pico. No smoking, no pets. 1 year lease. Tel (310)319-1947 or (310)394-2324.

SANTA MONICA \$2650.00 Spacious 3 Bdrm/3 full bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

SANTA MONICA \$575.00 Bachelor, new carpet, laundry, utilities incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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SANTA MONICA \$763.00 Studio, r/s, laundry, great location.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$895 1bdrm/1ba, appliances, no pets, gas paid. 2535 Kansas Ave. #211, Santa Monica, CA. Manager in #101.

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 1+1, charming, r/s, part util incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 1+1, r/s, laundry, gated parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA CANYO \$1700 Large single w/ocean views, 1 block from beach, just renovated, full kitchen, walk-in-closet, bathroom. Parking & utilities incld. (310)714-1609

SM 2BDRM/1.5BA \$2150.00 2 story, wood floors, newly remodeled, french doors, prking, no pets. (310)496-4900.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA, N. of Wilshire. Refurbished building for rent. 1,2,3 bdrms from \$1500.00-\$3800.00 Reduced rents. By appointment only. 1214 Idaho (310)869-0468. Open House Sunday April 241pm-4pm.

Howard Management Group

SM \$2300 Gorgeous 2bdrm/2ba. Huge, balcony, facing the ocean, parking, hardwood floors, wooden ceiling (310)399-1273

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdrm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdrm/1ba cat ok, D/M, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdrm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gated entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

VENICE \$1095 1bdrm/1ba Cottage type. Appliances, hardwood floors, bright, 2236 Penmar Ave. (310)399-1506

VENICE \$1095.00 Spacious 1bdrm/1ba w/large courtyard. 4 blocks to beach. Swimming pool, gated parking, new paint, new carpet, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$1150.00 Charming 1bdrm w/large balcony. Great location, 1 block to beach. New paint and carpet. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$1995.00 1BDR/1BA + loft and private 2 car garage. Stunning ocean view, new carpet, paint and stove. 1 property from the beach. 1 year lease, no pets.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, private rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$695.00 Very nice, studio w/fresh paint & carpet. 1/2 block from beach. First showing is 4-29-03 at 1:00pm. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4437

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$925.00, \$1295.00. Two singles available in historic red brick building on the beach. One unit is ocean front. Recently remodeled w/new kitchen and bathroom, exposed brick walls, new carpet and paint. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)450-1934

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Single \$850 Great location, very sunny, 1 block from beach, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laundry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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For Rent

WeHo \$795.00 Spanish 1bdrm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carpet.

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

WLA \$875 Furnished single. Free utilities. Front unit. Patio, private driveway. Clean/quiet. Centinela Ave. (310)390-4610

Houses For Rent

CULVER CITY \$2295.00 Spacious home 3BDR/2BA w/patio and pool. Hardwood floors, new carpet, bright and airy, kitchen has been recently upgraded, 2 car garage. On a quiet residential street. One year lease, no smoking, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

SANTA MONICA \$1490.00 House, 2+1, hardwood floors, w/d, quiet prking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$695.00 Triplex, walk to beach, yard.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$780.00 Guest House, pool, bright, yard, utilities incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

Roommates

MDR: LRG 2+2 to share. View of Marina. All amenities. Security parking, fireplace. N/P female preferred. \$825.00+utilities. Refs reg. (310)823-5925

SANTA MONICA \$450.00 Apt., prvt rm, bright, month to month, utilities incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$495.00 Duplex, prvt rm, pet ok, laundry, near SMC.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

Commercial Lease

WLA/SM 300-800 sq. ft. office space. Bright windows. Negotiable. (310)820-1561

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Senior Associate

310-440-8500 x.104

OFFICE TO Share. Beverly connection area. Looking for holistic health. Professional. Rent negotiable. (310)780-0132..

VENICE BEACH \$850 per month. Great office space located 1 block from beach and 1/2 block from Windward Avenue. Included are all utilities, T1 line. Approx 365 sq ft. 1 room with common area bathroom, concrete floors, exposed beamed ceilings. 1 year lease. (310)466-9778

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

WLA 1600sq/ft store front creative offices at 3347 Motor Ave., w/kitchen, bathroom, parking & patio. \$2750.00/mo (310)826-2100 x292 Jeff.

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Announcements

"I SOLD it one day! When I put my futor for sale in the Daily Press, it took me one day to sell it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, Santa Monica.

TWO NEWLY decorated small offices at the Central Tower Building. 1424 4th St. Santa Monica. 90401 (310)276-3313.

Business Opps

ABSOLUTE GOLDMINE! Go vending machines with excellent locations. All for \$10,995 (800)234-6982

Yard Sales

ADJ. YARD/MOVING SALE Lots of interesting & great stuff! 4-26-27 Sat/Sun 601&536 17th St. 8am-2pm

MOVING SALE Lots of quality merchandise. Sat/Sun, 04/26&27. Between Pico/Colorado.

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WANTED 29 People. We'll pay you to lose weight. All Natural Dr. recommended 888-224-9077
www.W8LossSolution.com

Fitness

GET FIT AT BEACH! Dynamic group exercise class w/exp. personal trainer. W&F, 9am. Cardio/Core/K-Box/Resistance. (310)452-4241.

Lost & Found

LOST SMALL dark blue backpack/diaper bag. Lost Monday, April 21. Either in Douglas Park or on Idaho between 22nd & 15th. Around 3pm. REWARD! Call Nina (310)395-7321.

Do You Have Osteoarthritis In Your Knee? Are You At Least 40 Years Old?

- Subjects wanted for a UCLA Division of Rheumatology research study of osteoarthritis of the knee comparing the effects of Glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, celebrex and placebo (sugar pill) for 24 weeks.
- This includes free evaluations and X-ray.
- Subjects must not have taken glucosamine or chondroitin sulfate for 3-6 months.
- If interested, please call Dr. Dinesh Khanna, MD, Emma Hasan or Huping Zhou at: **310-206-5732 or 310-825-9682**

Classified Advertising Conditions: **REGULAR RATE:** 25.00 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUM:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPES:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PHOTOGRAPHY:** All print ads must be prepaid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **RESPONSE:** To place your ad call our office 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1080, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 442 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 201. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

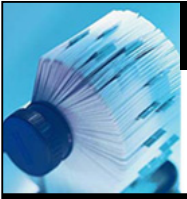
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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2003

EVENTS

LAP TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Mondays at 9:30am. Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Road. A series for children up to 24 months old. An early introduction to language and reading for parents and babies, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program. No fee or registration required. For more information, call (310)452-6132.

TODDLER TIME 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

GASLITE PRESENTS "BLUES, BOOZE & VIEWS," Monday nights at 7:00pm. Come share your views and interact with community leaders! This free weekly spirited event features free pizza, free soft drinks, live blues, and special guest speakers who interact with attendees. The Gaslite is on the corner of 21st Street and Wilshire Blvd in Santa Monica. For further info please contact Claire Ragge (owner) at (310)829-2382, ext. #4

SANTA MONICA STRUTTERS, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

HARVELLE'S BLUES CLUB present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street.

Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

°DINING

PATRICK ROADHOUSE - A fixture in Santa Monica Canyon for over 30 years, is now open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday (until 9pm) serving comfort food and a selection of low-carbohydrate baked goods, alongside the French toast and Boston Cream pie. Patrick's Roadhouse recently reopened after a fire that damaged the downstairs eating area in early December.

EL CHOLO - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106

LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314.4855

THE LOBSTER - A legend redefined! A local favorite serving classic American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

OMELETTE PARLOR - Best breakfast in LA. This is where the locals go! 2732 Main St., 310.399.7892

PANINI GARDEN - "The Locals Favorite" for gourmet European breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring fresh crepe, panini grilled sandwiches and delightful salads, dine on our charming patio, or call for delivery. 2715 Main St., 310.399.9939

THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria also serving pasta, salads, subs and wings. Voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit on our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star sightings. 915 Wilshire Blvd, for fast delivery call 310.351.7542

WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fired pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

SONNY MCLEAN'S - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839.

ORIGINAL THAI DISHES - Best Thai food in Santa Monica! Family owned restaurant since 1980. A local favorite serving classic Pad Thai noodles, pineapple fried rice and seafood specialties. All dishes can be made vegetarian. 1910 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.5634

EARTH, WIND & FLOUR - "Great Italian cooking. Just slightly west of Italy." This restaurant celebrates 22 years in the neighborhood for its friendliness and freshness. Pizza, pastas, salads, subs and more. Lunch and dinner specials and happy hour. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 310.829.7829

ACADIE'S - Voila! Fresh from the south of France, Homemade Crepes have just arrived in Santa Monica! Located right off the 3rd St. Promenade, this authentic French storefront radiates charm and ambience with indoor seating and a quaint side patio for an outdoor experience. The menu offers a range of options to suit your individual mood. 213 Arizona Ave. (310)395-1120

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
Phone Booth (R) 12:00pm | 2:10pm | 4:20pm | 6:40pm
1 9:00pm | 11:15pm. **A Mighty Wind (PG-13)** 11:30am | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 3:40pm | 4:30pm | 5:20pm | 6:10pm | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 8:40pm | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | 11:10pm.

MANN THEATRE

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30am | 2:05pm | 4:45pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm. **Basic (R)** 1:50pm | 7:10pm. **Chasing Papi (PG)** 11:45am | 2:10pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm. **Old School (R)** 11:20am | 4:40pm | 9:40pm. **A Man Apart (R)** 11:35am | 2:15pm | 5:05pm | 7:50pm | 10:30pm. **House of 1,000 Corpses (R)** 12:00pm | 2:30pm | 5:00pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm. **Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)** 11:15am | 1:45pm | 4:15pm | 7:15pm | 9:45pm.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Anger Management (PG-13) 11:45am | 2:15pm | 4:45pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm. **Bulletproof Monk (PG-13)** 2:30pm | 5:15pm | 8:00pm | 10:30pm. **What a Girl Wants (PG)** 1:00pm | 4:00pm | 7:00pm. **The Pianist (R)** 12:15pm | 3:35pm | 7:05pm | 10:20pm. **Holes (PG)** 11:50am | 1:10pm | 4:20pm | 7:35pm | 9:30pm. **Identity (R)** 12:00pm | 2:15pm | 4:35pm | 7:10pm | 9:40pm | 10:25pm. **It Runs In The Family (PG-13)** 11:45am | 2:20pm | 5:05pm | 7:50pm | 10:35pm.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Laurel Canyon (R) 2:15pm | 4:45pm | 7:15pm | 9:45pm. **The Good Thief (R)** 2:00pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm.

LEAMLEMM MONICA

1322 2nd St.
Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:00pm | 2:35pm | 5:10pm | 7:45pm | 10:20pm. **Assassination Tango (R)** 1:30pm | 4:15pm | 7:00pm | 9:45pm. **City of Ghosts (R)** 1:45pm | 4:30pm | 7:15pm | 10:00pm.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smcnp.com for consideration.

Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

BACK PAGE



Customers put Dick in a sling

By The Associated Press

SCOTIA, N.Y. — A 17-year-old goldfish can swim again thanks to a bunch of do-gooding humans.

Customers at the Sky Port diner near Schenectady came up with the idea of creating a fish sling after Dick the goldfish fell ill in November and had difficulty swimming.

Patty Sherman, who owns the diner with her two sisters, Joanna Dewey and Mary Ann Parker, said Dick could barely move across the bottom of his fish tank located behind the counter.

A customer whose daughter is studying to be a veterinarian had his daughter research fish ailments. She reported back that Dick was likely suffering from swim bladder disease and prescribed a diet of cooked peas to be hand fed to Dick three times a day, Sherman said.

To remedy Dick's swimming problem, several customers devised a sling made up of fishing bobbers, drinking straws, gauze and string. When the 8-inch-long fish is placed in the sling, he's able to swim like normal.

Sherman said customers find it relaxing to sit at the counter and watch Dick in his tank.

"Everybody's rooting for him," she said Tuesday.

"He's the topic of conversation at the Sky Port."

Marine cleared of parking ticket

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A 23-year-old Marine who had an outstanding parking ticket but couldn't pay it because he was fighting in Iraq has been cleared of the infraction, city officials said.

Brad Gaumont, a corporal from Saco, Maine, didn't bring his checkbook with him overseas but got a notice in his mail that said his overdue fine had increased from \$45 to \$100.

"Mom, I'm in kind of a bind here," he wrote home. "Can you tell them I'll pay for the ticket when I get back to the U.S.?"

Gaumont feared that nonpayment would hurt his chances to become a police officer. On Thursday, a spokeswoman for Mayor James Hahn's office said the ticket was forgiven and a confirmation letter is on the way.

"The Department of Transportation and the city decided that it was not handled in the manner consistent with the expectation of service," spokeswoman Angie Levine said.

Legislators pass on test

By The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — True or false? If lawmakers are going to make students go through a high-stakes test to graduate, legislators should take the exam, too.

A number of senators thought it was a good idea Wednesday, but ultimately they excused themselves from having to take the stomach-churning test.

Sen. Skip Campbell proposed an amendment to a measure that would have required members of the state Legislature, members of the Cabinet and secretaries of

various state agencies to take the test by next year.

Unlike their constituents in Florida's schools, they wouldn't have been required to pass the test.

The proposal drew cheers from a few parents who happened to be in the gallery with their children watching the Senate. Ultimately, Campbell agreed to withdraw the amendment before the Senate could vote on it.

Defenders of the exam argued it's worth a little pressure on kids.

"Our students are passing this test and that's the beauty of what has happened since we put accountability in education," said Sen. Evelyn Lynn.

Actress dies a day after being shot

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A 21-year-old actress died Friday from injuries suffered when she was shot in the face by her ex-boyfriend, who then killed himself, officials said.

Lyric Benson, who recently completed an episode of NBC's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," was pronounced dead at a hospital. She was shot early Thursday in her apartment doorway with her mother nearby.

Ex-boyfriend Robert Ambrosino, 33, took his own life within seconds, police said.

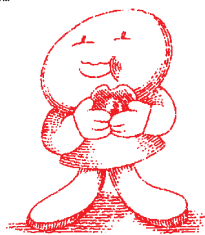
Acquaintances said Benson ended the relationship weeks ago after a religious reawakening prompted her to rethink their living together.

Benson graduated from Yale University last year with a bachelor's degree in theater studies. She had been working as a hostess at a Soho bistro, and appearing in increasingly high-profile acting jobs and advertising work.

She was featured in a current American Express advertisement and had a small part on an episode on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," according to her agents.

DID YOU KNOW?: Paul McCartney was the last bachelor Beatle when he married Linda Eastman in a civil ceremony in London, 1969. Paul's brother Mike was his best man. No other Beatle attended the wedding.

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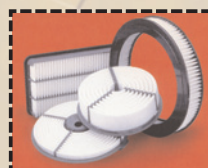
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